

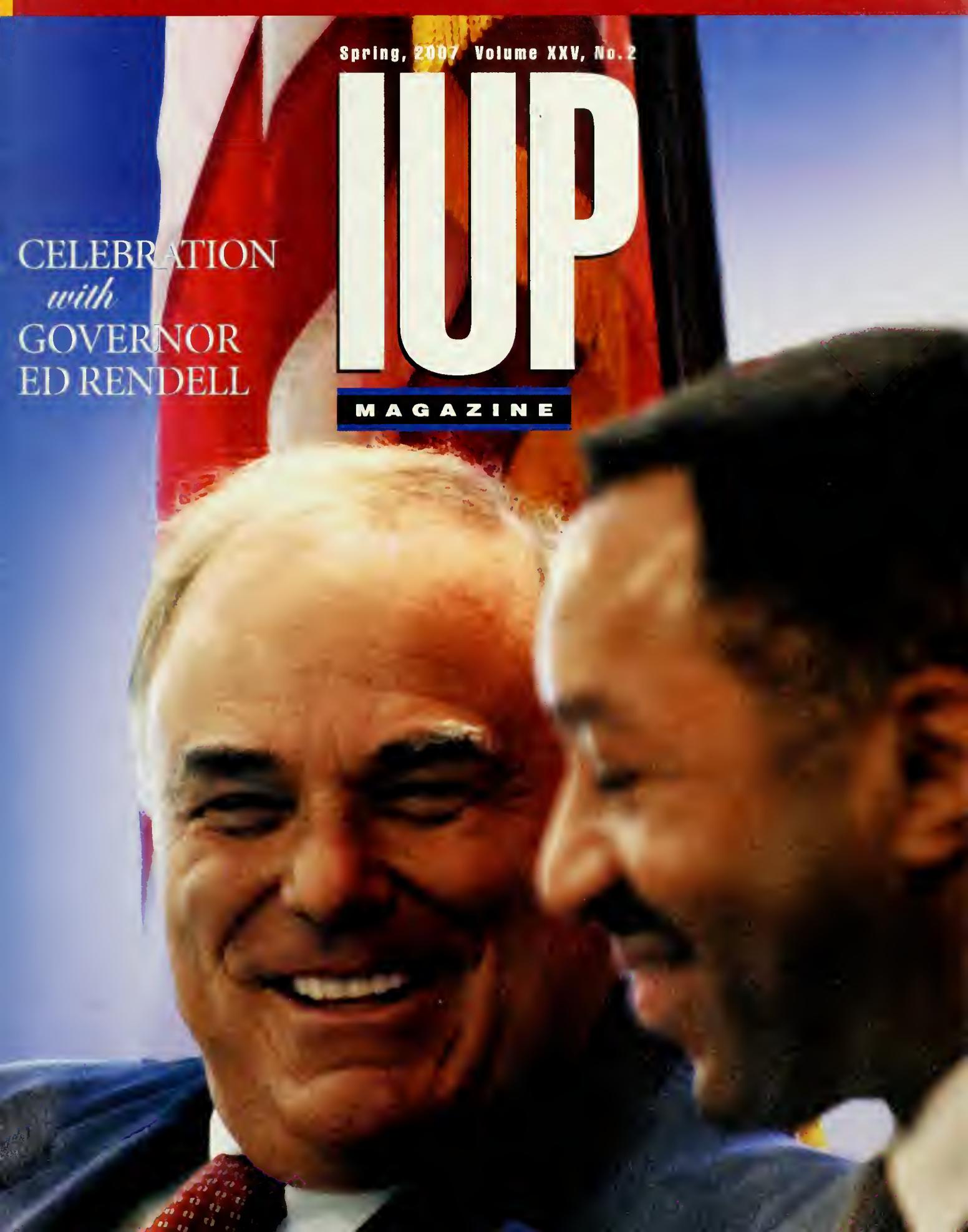
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Spring, 2007 Volume XXV, No. 2

IUP

MAGAZINE

CELEBRATION
with
GOVERNOR
ED RENDELL



MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT



BY TONY ATWATER

A FRONT-ROW SEAT *for* STUDENTS

The February 19 regional celebration of the land acquisition for the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Center was a historic day for IUP and the Indiana community. I had been proud of IUP and this community on many occasions during my first twenty-four months as IUP's twenty-fourth president, but this event was perhaps one of IUP's "finest hours." The occasion capped a seven-year odyssey full of twists and turns and an unwavering resolve to succeed.

I was honored to join other community leaders in Folger Hall to address the standing-room-only crowd of more than four hundred from the university, the region, and throughout the state. During my remarks, I stressed that the center will be the key to this community's transformation to a knowledge-based economy and will serve as a regional economic driver for decades to come. A 2005 marketing study projected that during its first twenty years, the facility will add more than \$60 million to the local economy. The convocation center also will provide a much-needed venue for major conferences, sports events, and other entertainment activities in the region.

IUP is committed to advancing significant community partnerships, and this facility will most certainly meet that objective. But as I have said many times, IUP's primary goal is promoting student success and opportunity.

So, one might ask, "How will students benefit from the KCAC?"

First, this facility will offer a beautiful and unique venue for our fine arts and cultural programming. By its very size—150,000 square feet—it will expand exponentially the options for entertainment and educational programming right here on campus,

something our students tell us they want and need as part of their university experience. These new programming opportunities will offer significant advantages and a competitive edge in terms of recruiting and retaining excellent students, further advancing the academic climate of this university.

Our existing networking and internship programs are strong. However, as a modern conference and technology and training facility, the KCAC offers students new and extraordinary opportunities for exposure to all types of businesses and services right here on campus in a variety of fields. A facility of this type necessarily requires experts in construction, management, marketing, celebrity management, technology, events planning, security, and hospitality fields. Students will be exposed to all of these fields, all while enjoying a front-row seat for world-class entertainment and educational events, trade shows, conferences, and national—perhaps international—business meetings and conferences.

As the community prospers and grows—thanks to the KCAC—there will be greater numbers of internship, work-study, and employment opportunities with a more diverse group of successful businesses right here in the region. This is very important to students who are often tied to family and other obligations locally, or who simply wish to stay in this fine community.

Finally, our students will be the beneficiaries of another "value added" component to the IUP degree. The enhanced value of an IUP degree will become even more evident to students as they graduate and begin their own odyssey. I hope their futures will be as exciting, challenging, and rewarding as the KCAC journey has been for this university and community. 

Contents

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July 1, 2006

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Stachimie Michel

DESIGN:

Michael Miskulinac

ADVERTISING DESIGN:

Ronald Matis

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Kurt Buyer (University Photographer),

Larry Reager

IUP Magazine is published four times a year by

Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a member of the State System of Higher Education.

The magazine's address is IUP Marketing and Communications Office, John Sutton Hall, Room 315, 1011 South Third, Indiana, PA 15701-5146 (telephone 724-357-3052; fax 724-357-5512; e-mail kgrash@iup.edu). Correspondence regarding any aspect of the magazine may be directed to the office.

IUP Magazine has a voluntary subscription program, and contributions are welcome. The Official IUP Magazine Form in the Lifestyles section may be used for this purpose.

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The Future Arrives

With formal acquisition of thirty-three acres of property along Wayne Avenue, state, regional, and local leaders gather to celebrate the progress of the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex.

page 2



Distinguished Alumni Awards

Ten alumni from eras that spanned the fifties to the nineties were recognized this spring at a Blue Room gala that celebrated their professional, civic, and service accomplishments.

page 12

Distinguished Indeed

Touched by their selection as Distinguished Alumni a few years earlier, four well-known alumni put together a fundraising concert to benefit the Clarks Recording Studio.

page 8



A Toast to TOST

Rachel Nelson heads an independent theater company, composed of Robert E. Cook Honors College students, that puts on shows for both IUP and the Indiana community.

page 11



DEPARTMENTS

11 Honors College

20 Awards

28 Name Droppers

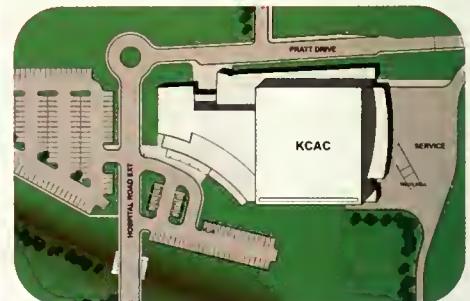
The Ultimate Thrill Ride

IUP coach Brian Spickler's track and field abilities led him to a new sport and a new challenge—bobsledding, with the 2010 Olympic Games as an ultimate goal.

page 25

THE FUTURE ARRIVES

On February 19, IUP hosted a celebration of progress on the \$41-million Indiana Regional Convocation Center. Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell was among special guests at the event, sponsored by President Tony Atwater and the IRCC Commission.



A month before the event, Pennsylvania State Senator Don White and President Atwater had announced the formal acquisition of approximately thirty-three acres along Indiana's Wayne Avenue by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services from the Kovalchick Corporation.

At February's celebration, Nathan Kovalchick acknowledged that his family, in addition to selling the land, had made a multimillion-dollar charitable commitment to the complex's construction. He and his wife, Karen, represented his parents, Joseph and Judith, at the celebration event. Judith Geyer Kovalchick is a 1965 IUP graduate and a 1969 master's degree recipient.

"My father and I were both born and raised here," Nathan Kovalchick said. "As we grew up, we saw young people leave for opportunities elsewhere. We're both proud to be part of this community, and we want to create opportunities here."

BY KAREN GPE H • PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH BOYER

Wayne Avenue: The Past

Several weeks later, the IUP Council of Trustees passed a resolution adopting a new name for the facility: the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex.

At the celebration in February, Governor Rendell called attention to the cooperation on many fronts that had moved the project forward. "This has truly been a team effort," he said, citing especially Senator White, Indiana County Commissioner Rodney Ruddock '65, M'75, and Indiana Mayor George Hood. "Because of the local effort, it became an easy project to fund," Rendell said.

Noting the complex had originally been slated for the university's South Campus, Rendell said he quickly realized that "the move to the Kovalchick site would result in the maximum economic impact for the town and region."

He praised the tenacity of local and regional leaders in bringing the project to fruition. "You are all true believers," he said.

In addition to current commonwealth Executive Branch leaders who attended the February event—the governor and Department of General Services Secretary James Creedon—former Governor Tom Ridge had also been instrumental in the project's early stages. In 2000, he committed \$3 million in state funding for design of the project and pledged a \$20-million match to help build the facility.

February's visit was Governor Rendell's

● Winky's offered "fast food cheap." Even remodeled for use by another kind of business, the Wayne Avenue building in its last hurrah still has features of the popular drive-in that served its last Big Wink decades ago.



second to Indiana in connection with the complex. Early in his first administration, he traveled to the IUP campus to announce a \$5-million commitment of state funding for property acquisition.

Critical support came from other sources, as well. Through the efforts of Congressman Murtha, \$3 million in federal funding was earmarked for complex construction. Other federal and state legislators who played roles included former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, Congressman Bill Shuster, and State

Representatives Sam Smith (a member of the IUP Council of Trustees), Jeff Pyle '91, and Dave Reed '00.

State and federal funds and agencies are only part of the funding equation. The project represents a financial partnership that also includes not only IUP but also the Indiana County Commissioners and Office of Planning and Development, Indiana Borough, White Township, and the Indiana County Redevelopment Corporation. These entities came together to raise the additional

Wayne Avenue: The Future



\$5 million that was needed in order to purchase the property.

Last August, President Atwater formed a university-community IRCC Commission with representation from all these entities. The commission subsequently appointed an IRCC Steering Committee for day-to-day execution of its directives.

The Indiana Initiative campaign, a community and university partnership to promote economic development, has been undertaken to raise the funds necessary to meet the state match. At the time of February's celebration, nearly \$10 million had been raised through charitable gifts and federal funding.

Groundbreaking for the 150,000-square-foot complex is planned for next spring, with occupancy anticipated in 2011. The center will include an arena, administrative offices for the John P. Murtha Institute for Homeland Security, athletic department administration offices, and state-of-the-art conferencing capabilities.

Removal of Kovalchick Corporation materials from the site has already begun and will continue in five phases, ending around the time the complex is completed.

One-time economic impact of the center is predicted at \$22 million and 125 jobs. Long-term projections include the infusion of \$7.8 million in new spending into the local economy each year.

When the land acquisition agreement was signed in January, Senator White said, "I want to express sincere thanks and apprecia-



Senator Don White

tion to the Kovalchick family for their willingness to sell property that has been part of their business and family for many years." A month later, he said the February event represented "a significant chapter in the history of Indiana County and for me personally."

In characterizing the progress of the facility, President Atwater recalled the words of the late management expert Peter Drucker, who talked about great institutions not waiting for the future, but instead inventing it for themselves.

At the celebration event, County Commissioner Ruddock, a lifelong Indiana resident, said he especially appreciated the "committed group of public and community investors" that had come together to make the project possible. "If you don't get excited about Indiana today," he said, "you'll never get excited."

The continuing progress of the complex can be tracked at www.iup.edu/kcac.

THE INDIANA INITIATIVE

The Indiana Initiative is a capital campaign to raise \$20 million in funding as a match to \$20 million in state funds and to build the \$41-million Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex.

The initiative will challenge IUP to create new relationships, build capacity, and raise visibility in a way that will continue to serve the university well beyond the four-year duration of the campaign. Fundraising efforts will culminate in a celebration of the opening of the complex in 2011.

The success of the campaign is dependent on generous gifts from alumni and university friends, from foundations and corporations, from groups and organizations, and from governmental sources. The hard work and dedication of many individuals who care deeply about the university and about Indiana will also be important to achieving the goal. To this end, the campaign will engage a national network of volunteers in twelve geographically targeted regions that have significant IUP alumni bases, donors already committed to support for the KCAC, and/or prospective centers of corporate or foundation support.

To learn more about what gift options are available, to discuss how making a charitable contribution can become part of your financial plan, to secure a naming opportunity, to become a campaign volunteer, or to request assistance, please contact Dr. Robert Davies, Vice President for University Relations and Executive Director of the Foundation for IUP, 103 Sutton Hall, Indiana, PA 15705; 724-357-5661, rodavies@iup.edu. He and his team will be happy to discuss opportunities with you.

"MY FATHER AND I...ARE BOTH PROUD TO BE PART OF THIS COMMUNITY, AND WE WANT TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES HERE."

—NATHAN KOVALCHICK



Nathan, left, and Karen Kovalchick with Governor Rendell



CHAMPION

Springtime couldn't come soon enough for Bill Orr '91.

A sales compensation programmer for Thermo Fisher Scientific, Orr is organizer of his company's cycling team. The cyclists participate in all Pittsburgh charity cycling events to raise funds for charities, including the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the American Diabetes Association, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF). The rides are not races but rather leisure cycling events in which riders choose a predetermined course and ride at their own pace. Orr came up with the idea for an additional event for CFF—the 65 Roses Ride, now entering its fifth year.

A runner and cyclist who competes in duathlons (run-bike-run), Orr, thirty-eight, is a nationally ranked age-group athlete. He is vice president of the Montour Trail Council and chair of the Montour Trail sponsorship committee, bringing in sponsors for events such as Tour the Montour, the Ikea Montour Trail Half-marathon, and 5K Run and Walk, the latter of which averages about a thousand participants. Orr was recognized as a 2005 Community Champion and was nominated for a Jefferson Award, established by the American Institute for Public Service to recognize those who perform remarkable deeds in community service without expectation of reward or recognition.

"Cycling is very rewarding to me," said Orr. "Last year I worked with someone at the CF Foundation who actually had cystic fibrosis. It was a lot of motivation for what I was doing, because I could see how much she appreciated the time I put in to benefit her and others who had the disease."

For an expanded version of this article, please visit IUP Magazine on line at www.iup.edu/publications/iupmag.

Bill Orr



As the Suites on Grant buildings have risen along Grant Street and Pratt Drive, faculty members, staff members, and students have made preparations to take advantage of all they will offer. The buildings—Phase I of the Residential Revival—will be much more than mere places to live: They will bring together living and learning in a number of ways.

A collaboration of the university and the Foundation for IUP, the buildings—and their counterparts in succeeding phases—will have dedicated living-learning space on each floor. Students and faculty members can gather there for lectures, group discussions and projects, academic advising, tutoring, and resource sharing. A committee of faculty members from across the university has met regularly this semester to decide the best way to utilize the living-learning space in the Suites on Grant.

Another indication that the revival is not solely residential are amenity spaces on the ground floor of the building that faces Pratt Drive. A resource center, comprising the African American Cultural Center, International Affairs office, and Social Equity office, will have space there by fall. Ground floor space in another wing of the same building, but facing Grant Street, will be set aside for the Information Technology Support Center.

Demolition of the Tri-Halls complex as part of Phase II of the Residential Revival will temporarily suspend IUP's housing arrangements with its Panhellenic sororities, as well as with a number of other organizations. But Interim Dean of Students Terry Appolonia '79, M'81 offered reassurance: "The university's relationship with our fraternity and sorority community has never been more mutually beneficial. We are in close contact with both the undergraduate chapters and their alumnae representatives as we plan both a short- and long-term win/win resolution."

IUP's earliest national sororities were chartered in 1914 and are believed to have originally been

- When it moves to brand-new space in the Suites on Grant, the African American Cultural Center will vacate what had been its "temporary" home for a few years on Washington Street (above). The center moved here when its previous location was bulldozed for the expansion of Cogswell Hall. This house and the one next to it will be demolished for university parking.

BY KAREN GRESH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH BOYER

- Faculty members and administrators are planning best uses for the living-learning areas in the Suites on Grant. Left to right, front row, Stephanie Taylor-Davis, Food and Nutrition; Jacqueline Beck, Health and Human Services; and Jack Makara, Housing and Residence Life. Back row: Theresa Ruffner, Psychology; Dennis Giever, Criminology; and Caleb Finegan, History.

housed in nonresidential suites in Sutton Hall. The Panhellenic sororities occupied their current suites with the opening of Mack, Stewart, and Turnbull halls in the early sixties. "We are pleased that both the undergraduate and alumnae members of our Panhellenic sororities remain interested in a residential relationship with the university," Appolonia said. "We look forward to quickly reestablishing that relationship."

One group of students has a professional interest in the Suites on Grant. Fifty-one members of Interior Design faculty member Karen Scarton's Contract Design II classes worked this semester on adding colorful personal touches to three model rooms in the Suites on Grant.

Wearing hard hats, class members toured the building site to take measurements (including the nine-foot ceilings) and gain inspiration. In small groups and with a tight deadline and real budget, they planned furniture arrangement, chose shower curtain patterns and towel colors, and picked out bedspreads and accessories. Finally, each group made a presentation to administrators involved with the project.

Not only were appearance and appropriateness evaluated, but cost was a big factor. Each group had to document the price of every item, which in turn had to be conveniently available for purchase by future tenants of the Suites on Grant. The three groups selected then personalized actual rooms that are now on display to prospective students and tenants.

The group chosen to address a two person-private suite (with private bath) relies heavily on modern shapes, geometric patterns, and subdued shades of burgundy, blue, and brown for bedrooms and baths and more vibrant hues for kitchen accessories. Group members include Autumn Craft, Saltsburg; Megan McDade, Oxford; Meghan McGrail, McMurray; Julie Nitkiewicz, Greensburg; and Jennifer Platts, Pittsburgh.

The personalization team selected to deal with a two-person shared semi-suite (common sleeping area, small common room, bathroom, and two closets) decided to bunk the beds in the sleeping area to allow for a lounge area within sight of the suite's front door. A red rug, brightly patterned chair, and movable screen offer color and flexibility, while innovative kitchen and bath accessories—including a freestanding corner shelf unit—contribute individuality. Team members include Jamie Barr, Pittsburgh; Teresa Romanowski, Bethlehem; and Megan Kyper, Ebensburg.

A third group applied its creativity to a two-person private semi-suite (two private bedrooms, small common area, and bathroom). One bedroom takes its cue from film posters, while travel posters dominate the other. What group members describe as "a great beach theme" sets the stage in the bathroom. Members of this team include Karina Bulick, Millersburg; Megan Lacy, Burlington, Vt.; Yoana Pencheva, Lovech, Bulgaria; and Dana Wentley, Pittsburgh. ☺



DISTINGUISHED

The

Clarks, recipients of the

2004 Distinguished Alumni Award,

demonstrated ongoing support for IUP by raising more than \$25,000 in a benefit concert for a new recording studio in the renovated Cogswell Hall, home to the Department of Music. The final rock concert in "old" Fisher Auditorium, itself now undergoing renovation, saw generations of alumni come together to provide an enduring gift to the university.

The band members—Scott Blasey '87, Robert James Hertweck '87, Greg Joseph '85, and David Minarik '88—were approached in the fall of 2005 by Shari Trinkley '81, IUP's director of Major and Planned Giving. Construction at Cogswell was nearing completion, and naming opportunities for various rooms were still available.

"When deciding who, among the university family, the recording studio would be a perfect fit for, the first name that popped into my head was the Clarks," Trinkley said. "I developed a proposal for the naming opportunity, met with Greg and Rob when they were in town for a concert, and plans just steamrolled from there."

The Clarks were immediately on board with the idea. With help from artist and longtime friend Chuck Olson '74, M'76, the fundraising concert took place in April, 2006, in Fisher Auditorium. (It was the last major show in Fisher before the auditorium closed for renovation that is scheduled for completion in Fall, 2008.)

"When Shari approached them with the idea, it just about knocked them out," said Olson, a 2001 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. "The Distinguished Alumni thing really affected them, and this was like a second rush of joy, realizing that they have the chance to give something of such value for succeeding generations of musicians—classical, jazz, or whatever—at IUP."

That single night of music was wildly successful and included the opening act of Dan and Dave. While planning

the concert, Hertweck remembered Dan Murphy '91 and David Antolik '88, musicians who were playing bars and frat house basements around the same time as the Clarks and who had also kept up with their music for the last twenty years. Olson recalled Hertweck's saying, "Those two, get those two."

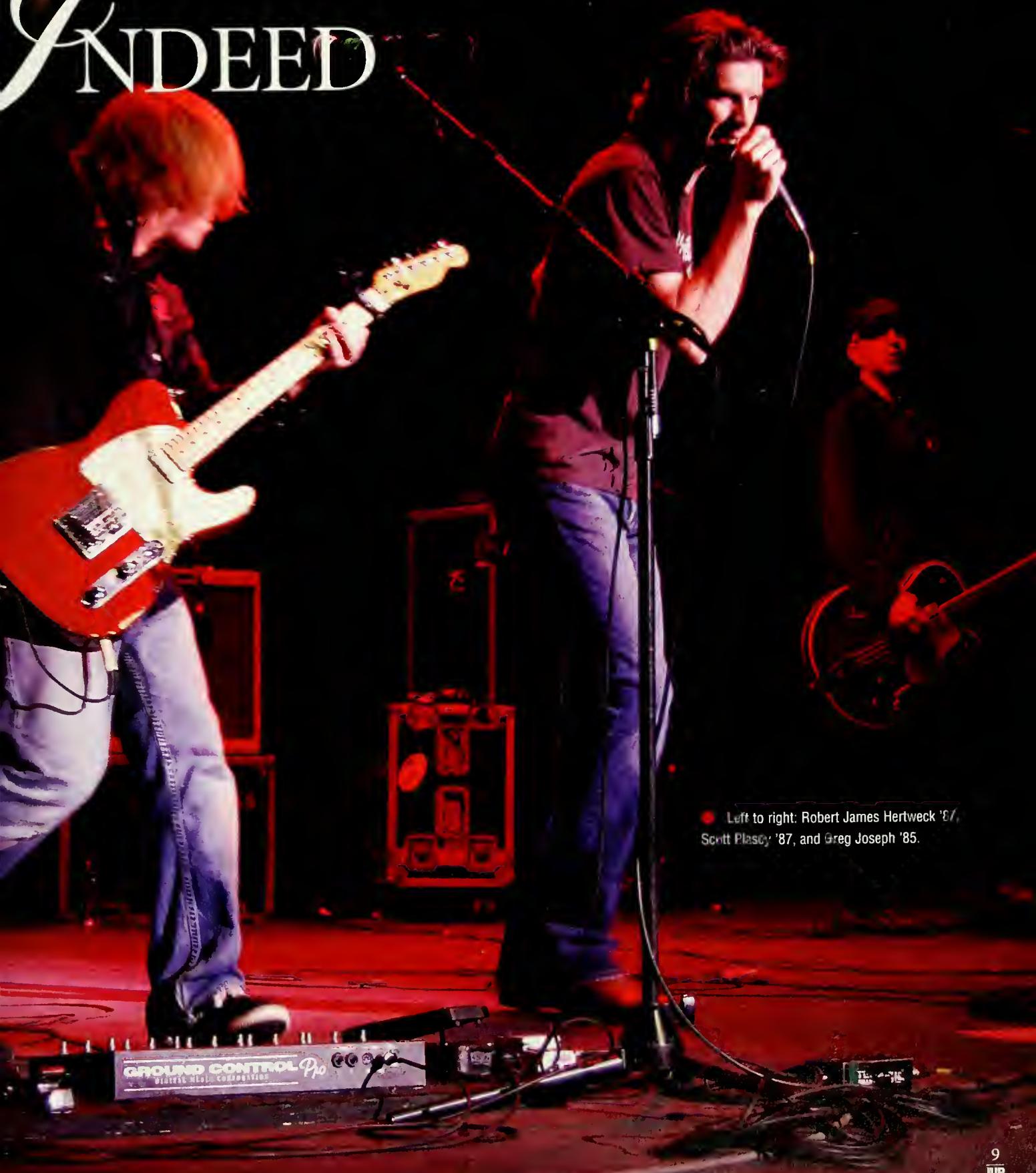
Hertweck and Olson ended up joining Dan and Dave on stage for their last song that night. "When you connect with certain people, you create a kind of infectious energy in each other," said Olson. "The feeling backstage was all about that collectivity of one generation of IUP wanting to give back and of having a moment, that the university gave to everybody, to be able to do something that will endure. Who knows what's going to come out of that recording studio?"

The concert included a raffle for an autographed guitar, tickets to one of the Clarks' summer shows, and an autographed copy of their greatest hits DVD, *Still Live*. "We joke about the fact that the last song played at old Fisher was "Cigarette"—performed by an all-Distinguished Alumni band!" Olson said.

The Clarks Recording Studio will allow ensembles, groups, or individual students to record performances or rehearsals for study, for application to graduate programs or competitions, and for other uses. The band deferred to the College of Fine Arts to determine what the new recording studio needed. The room, deceptively small and plain,

BY BRUCE DRIES • PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN STIFFLER

Indeed



Left to right: Robert James Hertweck '87,
Scott Plascy '87, and Greg Joseph '85.

will contain state-of-the-art equipment.

"The room is a luxury," said Jack Stamp '76, assistant chair of the Department of Music. "All quality music schools have this advantage, the ability to record in a rehearsal room. We never had anything like this before, never had the opportunity to record rehearsals, lectures, at the push of a button. Without the Clarks' help, it would have progressed very slowly."

The recording studio has windows looking into two of the four rehearsal rooms that will be wired together by next fall: choral, percussion, jazz, and ensemble. Two permanent microphones will be installed in each of the rehearsal rooms and will join a slew of high-quality equipment, including a sixteen-channel stereo mixer, a high-definition stereo recorder, a studio effects processor, a CD recorder, monitors, and stands—plus two ultra-sensitive ribbon

microphones, a battery-powered field recorder, and a recorder capable of duplicating fifty CDs at a time.

"We've met a lot of really great people from the university, like [Music Department chair] Lorraine Wilson and her husband," said lead vocalist Blasey. "They couldn't have been nicer or more appreciative of what we were doing for them, and we felt the same way about what they were doing for us. It was a situation where everybody came away winners and feeling really good about it. I can't use a better word than 'thrilled' to be involved with it."

For an expanded article about the Clarks and the new recording studio, please visit IUP Magazine on line at www.iup.edu/publications/iupmag.

Other gifts of significance recently given include those below.

GIFTS

New Scholarships were established by:

- Massaro Corporation with a pledge of \$50,000 and an initial payment of \$10,000 to establish the Joseph Massaro, Jr., Quarterback Scholarship
- Victor S. Drescher, IUP retired faculty member, Kittanning, Pa., with a gift of \$17,871 to establish the Drescher Programs Scholarship fund
- Beulah M. Fisher '56, Ridgefield, Conn., with a \$15,000 gift to establish the Beulah (Corsini) Fisher '56 Scholarship Fund

Significant Gifts were made to Athletics by:

- The Co-op Store in the amount of \$4,645 to support the IUP Women's Basketball Shoot for the Cure fundraiser
- PNC Bank in the amount of \$5,066 to support athletic scholarships through the Corporate Crimson Club
- Chris M. Holuta '89, Indiana, Pa., president of the FIUP Board of Directors, in the amount of \$5,000 for the Basketball Administrative Fund

Significant Gifts to the Regional Campuses were made by:

- David D. Osikowicz, Jr., chairperson of the IUP Council of Trustees, and Debbie Osikowicz, Punxsutawney, Pa., in the amount of \$3,500 to the Punxsutawney Dean's Innovation Fund and in the amount of \$3,500 to the Punxsutawney Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Paul J. Craft '78, Clymer, Pa., in the total amount of \$18,000 toward his \$30,000 pledge for the Punxsutawney Scholars Fund



- Ronald L. Fairman, DuBois, Pa., in the amount of \$28,572 toward his pledge to support the Fairman Centre
- Merchants National Bank and Rosebud Mining each in the amount of \$10,000 to the New Armstrong County Campus fund, benefiting IUP at Northpointe campus

Significant Gifts to Fine Arts were made by:

- The Reschini Foundation in the amount of \$112,496 in support of the Steinway campaign and the Pandolfi concert.
- Jay L. Althouse '73, Raleigh, N.C., in the amount of \$4,000 to the Cogswell Building Renovation Fund
- Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation in the amount of \$8,850 to support Special Projects within the IUP College of Fine Arts
- Gorell Enterprises Inc. in the amount of \$5,000 to the College of Fine Arts Special Project Fund

Other Restricted Significant Gifts were made by:

- Alcoa Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 to the Safety Sciences Department to fund a Fatality Prevention seminar to be held in November in Pittsburgh
- Allegheny Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 to the John P. Murtha Institute for Homeland Security to fund research initiatives

Significant Unrestricted Gifts to the Student Experience were made by:

- William P. Dannecker '61, Chappaqua, N.Y., in the amount of \$8,000
- James B. Renacci '80, Wadsworth, Ohio, a Foundation for IUP board member, in the amount of \$5,000
- Vivian P. Leidy '53, Mount Holly Springs, Pa., in the amount of \$5,000, after reading of the Fairman Centre gift in *IUP Magazine*
- The Estate of Pamela J. Beck '93 in the amount of \$10,000



A Toast to TOST

Since its founding, the Robert E. Cook Honors College has offered many great opportunities for students to grow academically, and for the past five years, it has also presented students with a creative outlet through TOST and Turned.

TOST and Turned is an independent student theater company that emerged from students' love of acting, combined with their desire to perform community service. TOST stands for *temperantia operis scholae theatrica* (Latin for the perfect mix of work, school, and theater).

A student board of executives runs TOST, and all performances are directed, performed, and run entirely by students. Senior theater major Rachel Nelson from Placerville, Calif., serves as the current president of the organization, running the "business side of things." She was also elected production manager, giving her the additional opportunity to lead the "theater side of things."

"I make sure that the shows are going smoothly and that all casts and crews are doing their jobs," Nelson said.

Shows are proposed each semester and voted on by all members of the organization. Generally, a wide variety of productions are suggested; TOST has performed both comedies and dramas. "We try to pick shows that will appeal to both the IUP and Indiana communities, but other than that, pretty much anything is fair game," Nelson said.

TOST began in 2002 with a professionally written full-length play in the fall and student-written one-acts in the spring. "We've continued that tradition," Nelson said, "and in the fall of 2004 added a special Halloween show as well."

At the end of April, TOST will present three student-written, one-act plays at Indiana's Philadelphia Street Playhouse.

Donations are accepted at the door of every performance to raise



Keith Boyer

money for the Indiana Free Library. The suggested donation is two dollars, and patrons sometimes contribute up to \$20. Every year TOST donates about \$1,000 to the library. Each show is performed three times and usually generates around \$300 in donations.

The organization's long-term goals are to continue growing and drawing in larger audiences. Next fall, they plan to add an improvisational group to TOST and Turned. Many of their shows are performed on campus in Pratt Auditorium.

"I hope that TOST continues to grow and attract a wide variety of students," Nelson said. "The organization has flourished because of the variety of majors and personalities that become involved."

Russian Reverie



Robert E. Cook Honors College junior Natalie McCauley has found an unconventional calling in the world of Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoevsky, among other legendary Russian authors. "When I was fifteen, I read [Tolstoy's] *Anna Karenina*," she said. Since then, I haven't been able to read enough."

During the summer of 2006, McCauley, who is

from Allegheny County's Moon Township, attended an eight-week language school program at the University of Pittsburgh for extensive language training. Each day, the students spent time in classes watching films, and once a week they had the opportunity to attend happy hour with authentic Russian food and drink.

"[There was] a lot of confusion," McCauley remembers of her session at Pitt. "Russian is one of the hardest languages out there, and

Distinguished *Alumni* Awards



Ten alumni were honored with 2007 Distinguished Alumni Awards at a March 31 gala sponsored by the IUP Alumni Association. Biographies of the winners more detailed than those that appear below are available on the *IUP Magazine* website.

Gregory Booth '71 is president and chief executive officer of Zippo Manufacturing Company in Bradford, Pa., and serves as board chairman of W.R. Case and Sons Cutlery Company and of Zippo Fashion Italia, located in Vicenza, Italy. Both are wholly owned Zippo subsidiaries. Beginning his career with Kendall Motor Oil in Bradford in 1971, he moved back and forth to California several times over ensuing decades and lived in Philadelphia while associated with Sunoco, which had purchased Kendall's successor. In 1999 he assumed operational leadership of W.R. Case and Sons Cutlery and has been in Bradford ever since.



Joan Frey Boytim '55, M'64 was honored with the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award for Service.

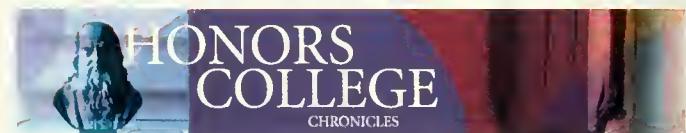
Nationally known in the field of vocal instruction, she has taught voice for more than fifty years in her private studio in Carlisle, Pa. In workshops and presentations at scores of events over the years, especially at conventions of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, she has shared her expertise with thousands of other voice teachers. A prolific compiler of vocal anthologies, she is characterized by her Milwaukee publisher as "the most recognized American expert in the training of the young voice."



Terry Dunlap '81 became president of Pittsburgh-based Allegheny Ludlum in 2002. A world leader in the technology, production, and marketing of specialty metals as well as other advanced alloys.

Allegheny Ludlum is a company of Allegheny Technologies, which Dunlap joined in 1983. He held numerous positions in sales, marketing, manufacturing, production control, logistics, and general management, eventually becoming vice president for procurement and chief information officer in 2001. A member of the Metals Service Center Institute's national board, he is also a past board member of the Foundation for IUP and has pursued MBA studies at Loyola University Chicago.

continued ➤



starting is the hardest part. Once I had the new alphabet, the seven cases, and the sentence structure—or complete lack thereof—down, it became a lot easier."

Though apprehensive about her language skills, McCauley will be spending nine weeks this summer studying at the Middlebury Language Institute in Vermont. She received a \$5,000 scholarship from the program and will put the time to good use, speaking only Russian for the duration of her Middlebury stay.

After her intensive learning in Vermont, McCauley will spend her fall semester in St. Petersburg, Russia. "I'm so excited," she said. "I want to visit all of the sites that I know will inspire me, and, hopefully, I will draw some wisdom from them."

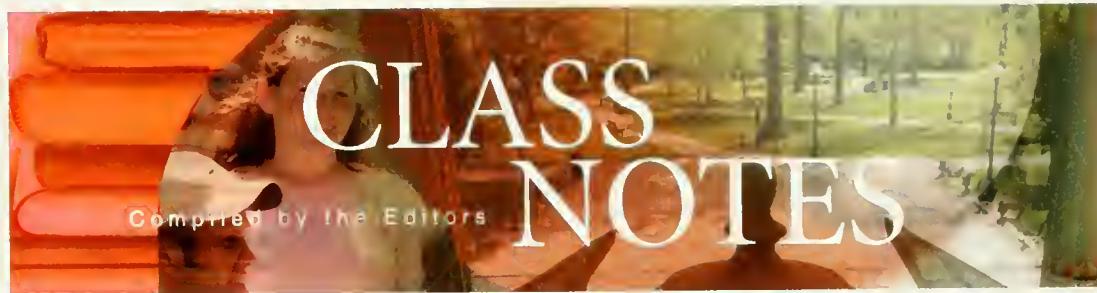
McCauley is most anticipating the extra time she will have to sit back and learn in Russia. "I'm going to have much more time to read, write, and study there than I do here, since I won't have a job or a thousand cocurriculars to hog my time," she said. During her months in St. Petersburg, McCauley wants to "focus on academics and intellect and make full use of their libraries."

With a double major in English and History, McCauley is president of Phi Eta Sigma honors fraternity and a member of the History Club and IUP Judicial Board. ➤



Keith Boyer

● **BIG NEWS WITH CELLO ACCOMPANIMENT:** The announcement of IUP's designation as an All-Steinway School was a highlight of IUP Night at Heinz Hall in February. Before the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra program that featured visiting pianist Edgar Bronfman, both the university's full cello choir and a smaller quartet performed in the hall's lobby. Left to right: Faculty member Linda Jennings, the choir's director; Audrey Fairchild; Laura Kessler; and John Thorell. More about the All-Steinway achievement will appear in the Summer issue of *IUP Magazine*.



Designation of Codes

- AA** Associate of Arts Degree
- CA** Academy of Culinary Arts
- D** Doctoral Degree
- M** Master's Degree

● 1950s

Both Vern Mank '53 and Elizabeth Peters Mauk '53 taught courses in recent months at the International Museum of Art & Science in McAllen, Tex. Vern's offering was a series of classes addressing three areas of art skills, while Elizabeth's course was called "Writing Your Family Stories." The Mauks live in Texas in the winter and in Massena, N.Y., from April to October. Both have presented their well-received classes in a variety of locations over many years.

The retired creator and principal of the nationally famous Riverside Arts Magnet School, **Barbara Conner-McGeary** '54 is still active as a community leader and artist. The new Cumberland County (Pa.) Historical Society headquarters in Carlisle displays a thirteen-by-eight-foot mural of her creation, and she is the first female president of the Tuscarora Forest Property Owners Association. She and her husband, **Clyde McGeary** '54, have four children and seven grandchildren, including Martha McGeary-Snider, who serves on the boards

of both the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Clyde served in the Army, completed an M.E.A. degree in Painting at what is now CMU, taught at Pitt, and joined the Pennsylvania Department of Education as fine art advisor. Credited with creating the Governor's School for the Arts, he also originated the Arts in Education concept and today is serving his second term on the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts (along with **Myron Tomb** '69). In March he was honored as founder and now advisor of the Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg.

Beulah Corsini Fisher '56 was grand marshal for the 2006 IUP Homecoming Parade and was escorted by her husband, John. The Fishers live in Ridgefield, Conn.

● 1960s

Go on line at www.iup.edu/publications/iupmag to see a photo of sixties-era Sig Eps at a 2006 reunion. Those pictured include **Bill Bache** '62, **Jerry Malecki** '64, **D'74**, **Charles Yellig** '64, **Bill DeMore** '65, **John Hardin** '65 (who submitted the photo), **Edgar Highberger** '65, **M'68**, **Karl Johnston** '65, **John Phillips**, **Ron Peters** '65, **Rod Ruddock** '65, **M'75**, **Mike Sheldeda** '65, **Ron Yuvan** '65, **John Kennedy** '67, and **J.C. Natali** '67. Those present but not pictured: **Hank Ablauf** '65, **Bob Nelis** '65, **Bill Siegel** '65, **John Gabriel** '67, and **John Scarnati** '67.

● 1970s

Kathy Julius Ditch '70 is assistant director and teacher of the Children's Creative Learning Center at Butler County Community College. Her husband, **Dennis Ditch** '71, **M'76**, an elementary school counselor in the Butler Area School District, recently completed a 550-hour massage therapy certification program at Butler County Community College and is now a certified massage therapist. In addition, he is co-chairperson of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Butler County's annual Bowl for Kids' Sake and serves on the advisory board for Butler County's Children and Youth Services. The couple's older son, **Stephen Ditch** '02, is a computer field technician for First Commonwealth Bank. Another son, **Mark Ditch** '06, works for Armstrong Utilities of Butler and WSHH 99.7 FM radio of Pittsburgh and also plays guitar for the group Aedan's Gunn. The Ditches' daughter, Sarah, is a junior marketing and international business major at Grove City College.

Craig Lebo '70 is heading the Program Management Office for Vision 2010, a new initiative of Engineering Systems Solutions in Frederick, Md. He has been associated with the firm, which does most of its business with the federal government, since 2005.

A visit to Pennsylvania by **Terry Huber** '71, **M'75**, in the midst of relocating from Turkey

to Japan, sparked a reunion at the Mechanicsburg home of **Carvel Markley** '71. A photo appears on the *IUP Magazine* website and includes **Nancy Davis Smith** '70, **Laurie McCandless Williamson** '70, **M'74**, **Nancy Heaton Bea** '70, **Sandy Baer Thomas** '72, **Peach Ensley Mack** '68, **Susan Lepley Miller** '72, **M'76**, **Phil Smith** '69, **Chet Williamson** '70, **Paul "Skip" Bea** '71, **Terry Huber**, **Carvel Markley**, **Chuck Mack** '64, and **H. K. Miller** '72, **M'74**.

Sisters and IUP alumnae **Barbara Clare O'Brien** '72, a recently retired speech pathologist, and **Janet Clare Brito** '75, a recently retired CPA, have expanded their consignment store business by taking it on line and worldwide. Clares Closet, Kutztown, Pa., had been their part-time business for fifteen years. When it went on line at www.ShoppingAtClares.com, though, the business boomed, and both decided to quit their regular jobs to keep up with its rapid growth. As Barb puts it, "Retirement—No; Fun—Yes!"

Gayle Freudenthal Farabaugh '73 has been honored by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the Budget with a special citation for outstanding accomplishment. An accountant with seventeen years of commonwealth service, she lives in Etters, Pa., with her husband and son, who are both named Robert.

Sara Wallace Little '74

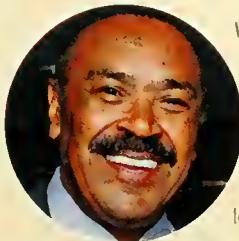
Distinguished Alumni Awards



Chad Hurley '99 is cofounder and chief executive officer of YouTube, Inc., in San Mateo, Calif. A graduate of Twin Valley High School in eastern Pennsylvania, he was a standout runner on the school's champion cross country teams. After earning a degree in the College of Fine Arts at IUP, he was hired by PayPal and reportedly designed the company's original logo. With PayPal colleagues Steve Chen and Jawed Karim, he founded the video-sharing website YouTube in 2005. In October, 2006, YouTube was sold to Google for \$1.65 billion. Today, his views on Internet entrepreneurship are eagerly sought and greatly valued.



Richard Pegnetter, Jr., '66, M'66 is interim president of Florida Gulf Coast University, a post he assumed in January. When FGCU was founded in 1995, he became its first business dean and led what is now the Lutgert College of Business to AACSB International certification in 2003. (Only an elite group of the nation's business schools—including IUP's Eberly College—can make that claim.) Before arriving in Ft. Myers, he was a dean at Colorado State University and an associate dean at the University of Iowa and held academic posts in Michigan, Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania. He received a Ph.D. degree from Cornell University.



William Powell '69 has been GM North America vice president for Industry Dealer Affairs since 2004. He is responsible for developing and maintaining strong, positive dealer relationships through General Motors Vehicle Sales, Service, and Marketing (VSSM) and for leadership of VSSM dealer network activities. He previously served as regional general manager for the GM VSSM Southeast Region in Atlanta for five years. A native of France, he has a master's degree from Pacific Lutheran University and started his GM career in 1977 with Buick in California. Now a resident of Michigan, he participated in Harvard's Executive Development Program in 1987.



Victoria Amino Rich '71, '79 is chief nurse executive for the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center Campus. Before accepting the newly created position in February, she was chief nursing officer for the Hospital of the University of

received the 2006 Pennsylvania Secondary Art Educator award last fall. Ever since her IUP graduation, she has been an art teacher in the Hanover Public School District. For sixteen years, she taught elementary art (which meant traveling to five different schools and teaching at least 1,200 students a week) and later moved to the high school. The mother of a son, Nathan, and a daughter, Lauren, she lives in Hanover with her husband, Jon.

A specialist in labor and employment law, **Thomas May '74** is one of nineteen lawyers at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote selected for inclusion in the most recent edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. The firm has its headquarters in Pittsburgh and offices in several other cities.

Retired from teaching English in the South Butler County School District in Saxonburg, Pa., **Donald Orwold M'74** has written for the stage for years and, since his retirement, has been able to finish a play or two a month. A resident of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, he is concentrating his current efforts on a group of plays concerned with the Iraq War.

The golf outing in memory of **Tim "Muttz" Whelan '75** that was mentioned in the magazine's last issue is scheduled for May 12 at Grand View Golf Club in North Braddock, Pa. Proceeds will benefit the hospice and hospitals that cared for Muttz, according to **Cathy Turano Ingham '77**, one of the outing organizers. She may be reached at *inghamcj@comcast.net* or at 610-715-8308.

Head of her own interior design business in South Carolina, **Diane Tice Dasher '76** has also been elected to a second term on the Fort Mill

School Board. She and her husband, Luther, have a daughter who is a dental student at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and a son who is studying mechanical engineering at Clemson.

The world premiere of *Dex and Julie Sittin' in a Tree*, a play by **Bruce Graham '79**, took place from January to March in Philadelphia. Members of the Philadelphia Chapter of the IUP Alumni Association were on hand for a meet-the-playwright reception and one of the closing performances of the play, which was inspired by Bruce's returning to IUP in 2000 to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* called the production "Quirky, engaging...a night of revelations with great style."

● 1980s

Mike Kucynda '80 was promoted to lieutenant colonel in January, 2003, shortly before he was deployed to Iraq, where he served until April, 2004. During that time, he was awarded the Bronze Star while attached to the 4th Infantry Division, supporting the 1st Brigade (which captured Saddam Hussein). Mike had previously been deployed nine months to Bosnia-Herzegovina in Tuzla.

Patti Reynolds DeGennaro '81 was recently promoted to president and chief executive officer of TA Holdings, Inc., and its subsidiary companies, which include Title Alliance, Ltd., T.A. Title Insurance Company, Title Abstract Company of Pennsylvania, TA Financial Services, and 1031 Corporation.

Licensed to practice law in California, Texas, and Pennsylvania, **Erik Rutkowski '81** is currently first assistant public defender for Venango County in Franklin, Pa.

Although all went to IUP in

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the eighties, none of the women who appear in a photo on the *IUP Magazine* website knew one another before joining a book club in Jefferson, Md., near Frederick. Now, they are good friends, and their children all attend the same schools.

Appearing in the photo are **Linda Dienes Acierto '82**, **Sheron Stoyer Kominos '84**, **Teresa McCracken Edwards '88**, and **Donna Visnick Diehl '85**.

Detroit's Henry Ford Health System has promoted **Rose Dill Glenn '82** to senior vice president of Marketing and Public Relations. She joined Henry Ford six years ago, after a stint at ProMedica Health System in Toledo.

Ray Haluska '82 has launched a travel agency called Sunny Rays Getaways and can be contacted electronically at GoSunnyRays@aol.com.

An assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, **Joan Smergalski Rhodes '82** is project director and co-principal investigator for a \$4.4 million Early Reading First grant for the university.

For **Russell Collett '83**, April marks his twenty-fourth year with the U.S. Secret Service; he is currently assistant special agent in charge of the Chicago Field Office. He and his wife, **Stacy Tannehill Collett '86**, a freelance technology and business writer, live in Downers Grove with their thirteen-year-old triplet daughters, Caitlyn, Devin, and Kelsey.

Nationally acclaimed string educator **Scott Laird '86, M'91** was featured at the third IUP String Festival in February. The day-long event concluded with a concert of IUP string students and faculty members. Scott's wife is **Barbra Smergalski Laird '87**, and his par-

ents are **David Laird '57, M'60** and **Nancy Stiver Laird '59**.

After twenty years of active duty service, IUP ROTC graduate **Traci Thrasher '86** retired from the U.S. Army in January with the rank of major.

Bill Balint '88 has been named IUP's first-ever chief information officer. He previously served as interim director of the Technology Services Center, among other positions in that operation.

John Strachan '88, Andy Seligman '90, Mike Coughlin '89, and **Jim Marone '91** have formed D3 Training, LLC, an instructional design and consulting firm in West Chester, Pa. The firm produces training materials and programs for the pharmaceutical, biotech, health care, pulp/paper, and manufacturing industries. More information is at www.d3training.com.

● 1990s

A photo supplied by Major **John Toth '90** appears in the Military section of *IUP Magazine*'s Web Extra at www.iup.edu/publications/iupmag/WebExtra. Taken in Iraq, it shows several IUP ROTC alumni who were serving there with the Pennsylvania National Guard. John was with the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry ("Leader Rakkasans" as they are known) in the 101st Airborne Division, which replaced the Guard unit in Bayji.

Mauro Wolfe '90 has joined as partner the New York office of law firm Dickstein Shapiro in its Litigation, Regulatory, and Compliance practice. With experience in both the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Securities and Exchange Commission, he will focus on securities regulation, enforcement, and white-collar criminal matters.

Distinguished Alumni Awards



Pennsylvania for five years. She continues to serve as assistant dean of Clinical Practice in the university's School of Nursing. Prior to her responsibilities in Philadelphia, she was vice president of Patient Care Services at University Community Hospital in Tampa, Fla., and also held leadership positions in Greensburg. She earned both a master's and a doctorate in Nursing Administration at the University of Pittsburgh.



Marla Sabo '79 served for more than five years as president and chief operating officer of Christian Dior Couture, leaving the post last spring. During her tenure, the company quadrupled its business. She previously was senior vice president of Sales and Merchandising at Hermès—a position she accepted after a ten-year record of leadership at Saks Fifth Avenue, where she began as a buyer and rose to vice president and divisional merchandise manager. Shortly before beginning her New York career as a buyer at Bergdorf Goodman, she completed master's studies at the University of Paris—Sorbonne. She lives in Manhattan.



Robert Thomas '50 is professor emeritus in the Department of Geography at Michigan State University. A specialist in Latin American geography with an impressive record of teaching, publications, and field experiences, he also received a Fulbright Scholarship to work in Colombia. In the sixties, he was an urban planning advisor in Guatemala and also taught at IUP for several years. In recent years, he has led a number of Michigan State study-abroad expeditions to Latin America. The recipient of a master's degree from Pitt and a doctorate from Penn State, he and his wife, Dorothy Gemmell Thomas '50, live in Okemos, Mich.



Frederick Zenone '57 is a retired cellist with the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. He has served as president of both the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians and the Symphony Orchestra Institute and was publisher of *Harmony*, the institute's journal. He did graduate study at Rutgers University and pursued cello study there and at the Curtis Institute. He also studied with David Soyer, a founding member of the Guarneri String Quartet. Zenone and his wife, Patricia Larson

Zenone '57, live in Bluffton, S.C.

Kristen Karolski Lucas '91 has opened a very charming, upscale children's boutique in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. Photos of her shop, which was featured in the "Shopping Coast to Coast" section of *Child* magazine, are on *IUP Magazine's* website at www.iup.edu/publications/iupmag.

John Rowley '92 has launched i-RFP, an on-line, profit improvement solution that upgrades and streamlines law firms' traditional Request for Proposal methods. Advertising director of the *Penn* in the early nineties, he now lives in Schwenksville, Pa., with his wife, three children, and two Labradors and is active in the IUP Philadelphia alumni chapter. More about his firm is at www.i-rfp.com.

Dino Sacriponte '95 has joined GovConnection, a division of PCConnection, as Pennsylvania Business Development manager. The company offers IT hardware and software solutions to universities, K-12 school districts, and government entities. In his previous job with CyraCom, a medical interpretation company, Dino was named 2005 Account Manager of the Year. He and his wife, Susan, have a nine-year-old son and six-year-old daughter and live in the Pittsburgh area.

David Ziringer M'96 is teaching English at a high school in Sweden, where he lives with his wife, who is a medical doctor, and three children.

When **Kimberly Carleton '97** married Paul McCann last November, the bridesmaids included **Deborah Amino Maldonado '98, M'99** and **Colleen Crncic Tosadori '98, '00**.

Christine Bynum Hardy '99, who received a law degree from Duquesne University, has joined

the Pittsburgh legal firm of Burns, White & Hickton.

● 2000s

Randy Strong '01, who is working on a master's degree in GIS at IUP, has been named director of Geographical Information Systems for Westmoreland County, Pa. He and his wife, Sheri, and son, Drake Andrew, live near Avonmore.

At the wedding of **Jessica Stile '02** and **Ryan Steiner** last October, **Holly Mock '02** was maid of honor and **Sommer Henke Temple '01** was a bridesmaid. Other wedding party members were **Jonathan Schucolsky '05** and **Scott Gibbons '05**.

At GeoDecisions, a Harrisburg information technology firm that specializes in geospatial solutions, **Susanna Kodlick M'03** was recently promoted to manager of geographic information systems. She also teaches GIS as an adjunct faculty member at Dickinson College.

Michael Paff M'05 plans to marry **Merideth Ann Parker**, a special education teacher, on June 30 and to live in Erie. Currently a school psychologist intern in the Fort LeBoeuf School District, he anticipates receiving a D.Ed. degree from IUP in 2010.

Weddings

● 1960s

Charlie Thompson '68, M'72 to **Christine Benson Kealey '77, M'79**, December 30, 2006.

● 1980s

Hollandra Geiser '83 to Clayton Chang, October 21, 2006.

● 1990s

Karen Campbell '90 to Forrest Shaffer, September 16, 2006. **Kimberly Carleton '97** to Paul McCann, November 11, 2006.



● SAME TIME NEXT YEAR: After their last Class of 1955 reunion at IUP, nine classmates from all parts of the nation resolved to try to reconnect each year at a different location. In 2006, seven were able to gather at West Virginia's Canaan Valley. Left to right: Anne Tucker Nichols (Va.); Jan Haley Lotz (Pa.); Margie Warren Scott (Tex.); Kathleen Pebbley (Ariz.); Roxanna Love Hurst (N.J.); Helen Vasilko Beckner (Pa.); and Janet McNitt Churm (Pa.).

● 2000s

Daniel Sensenig '01 to Maggie Ryan, June 17, 2006. **Jessica Stile '02** to Ryan Steiner, October 14, 2006. **Lauren Elliott '05** to Bill Moss '05, August 5, 2006.

Arrivals

● 1980s

To **Dawn Powers Borchers '89** and Bill Borchers, a son, Liam Donald, October 8, 2006. To **Elaine Murray Foguth '89** and Jim Foguth, a daughter, Madeline Marie, July 27, 2006. To **Catherine Jennerjohn Wolf '89** and Bob Wolf, a son, Ryan Andrew, December 20, 2006.

● 1990s

To **Susan Hoffner McCulloch '90** and Peter McCulloch, a daughter, Chloe, August 17, 2006. To **Karen Murtha James M'91** and Brooke James, a daughter, Rachel Elizabeth, December 31, 2006. To **Brenda Maloney Kuntz '91** and **Daniel Kuntz '92**, a son, Holden Elliott, January 11, 2007. To **Heather Heffner Carson '93** and **Matthew Carson '93**, a son, Matthew William, November 6, 2006. To **Jennifer Lynne Flaherty Donahue '93** and Bill Donahue, twins, Catherine Dorothy and William Thomas, September 21, 2006. To **Susan Steer Magdich '93** and Edwin

Magdich, a son, Joshua Jacob, December 30, 2003, and a son, Jonah Abraham, October 16, 2006. To **Leslie Peterson Schreckengast '93** and Brian Schreckengast, a daughter, Julia Margaret, November 11, 2006. To **Tammy Cence Sherwin '93** and **Randy Sherwin '94**, a son, Jake Synger, July 15, 2006. To **Mari Grace Lingenfelter Covert '94, M'96** and **Josh Covert '04**, a son, Hayden Elijah, August 31, 2006. To **Shelby Holland FitzSimmons '94** and George FitzSimmons, a son, Bret Holland, March 2, 2005. To **Brenda Selmanoff Siciliano '94** and Michael Siciliano, a son, Anthony John, March 27, 2006. To **Mary Anne Grazioli Andreassi '95** and Silvio Andreassi, a son, Silvio Giovanni, November 2, 2006. To **Kristin Herring Hahn '95** and Terry Hahn, a son, Rylan Lucas, November 10, 2006. To **Janine Frick Schott '95** and Paul Schott, a daughter, Jessica Ant, November 5, 2006. To **Kathleen Werner McLeod '96** and Michael McLeod, a daughter, Reiley Grace, November 12, 2006. To **Allison DiPerna Sciullo '96** and David Sciullo, a son, Maxwell David, May 7, 2005. To **Eric Sauers '97** and **Janine Sunderland Sauers '98, M'00**, a daughter, Willow Joyonna, August 5, 2006. To **Randy Weston '99** and **Michelle Foreback Weston '01**, a son, Jacob Lee, June 4, 2006. To

Letters

Indiana Love Story

I have just received the IUP alumni magazine and have enjoyed it very much. I grew up in Punxsutawney and worked in the G.C. Murphy five-and-ten-cent store on Saturdays while I was in high school. I was happy to read that the building was presented to the Foundation for IUP by the Punxsutawney Regional Development Corporation.

I met my husband, Gerald Leidy, at Indiana (then State Teachers College). He was a Korean War veteran on the G.I. Bill. I was a last-semester senior, and he was a first-semester freshman. We were assigned to the same table in the dining hall.

I graduated in 1953, and we were married in 1954. Gerald graduated with the Class of 1955 by completing requirements in an accelerated course.

He later completed his Ph.D. and taught at Shippensburg University. After retirement, he became interested in daylilies and had a garden of 590 varieties. His health declined, and he died of lymphoma in 2004.

Vivian Gall Leidy '53
Mt. Holly Springs, Pa.

Soldier Sisters

Thank you for sending to me the *IUP Magazine* each quarter. I was graduated in January, 1961, and always look forward to reading about student activities, the staff, and programs at the university. The article and pictures of the "Soldier Sisters," Jenny and Kathy Conn, in the Winter, 2007, issue were impressive. Since I was in the military, these stories have special meaning to me. Being a 1961 graduate, the Conn sisters look like teenagers.

Jack Rininger '61
Collegeville, Pa.





● **COOL ADVICE:** Don Asher, nationally known writer and speaker on college and career issues, visited IUP in late winter. He consulted with McNair Scholars Heather Humphries, left, and Chardae Bowe and made a Six O'Clock Series presentation on "How to Beat 1000-to-1 Odds to Land Your Dream Job." The second edition of Asher's book *Cool Colleges for the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, and Just Plain Different* is due for publication this month by Ten Speed Press. Like its predecessor, it is expected to include IUP's Robert E. Cook Honors College among the "innovative and unorthodox" schools it profiles.

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Here is news for Class Notes, Lost and Found, Weddings, Arrivals, or Deaths.

Please note: News that appears in this issue arrived in the magazine office on or before February 19. If your news came in after that date, it will appear in the Summer issue. Submissions for that issue must *arrive* in the magazine office no later than **May 18**. News arriving after that date will appear in the Fall, 2007, issue. **News for Class Notes, Weddings, and Arrivals must be reported either by or with the explicit approval of the subject(s).** Photos become the magazine's property and may or may not be returned.

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Raeshel Rhodes Ziegler M'99
and Jeffrey Ziegler, twins, Hailey Noelle and Cassidy Paige, January 3, 2007.

● 2000s

To **Joy Leonard Connell '00, M'02** and **Michael Connell '00**, a daughter, Grace Josephine, January 12, 2007. To **Robert Salata '00** and **Rebecca Brown Salata '01**, a son, Jaxon Paul, May 12, 2006. To **Jessica Stile Steiner '02** and Ryan Steiner, a daughter, Paxton Ann, August 8, 2005.

Deaths

(Note: All class years are baccalaureate level [even though the deceased may have also received an IUP graduate degree], unless otherwise indicated.)

1924: Anna Belle Rupp McFall.

1927: Beatrice Gromley Stahl.

1929: Aline Black Abdalla, Genevieve Patterson Wolfe.

1930: Ella Pell Kerr. **1931:** Eva Brown Bloom. **1932:** Edythe Miller Hoffman, Edith Miller.

1933: Emma Hone Amos, Ruth Feighner Kirsch, Lorraine McDowell Robinson, Mildred Julius Strong. **1934:** Mary Enterline Fenical, Eugene Sutton. **1935:** Helen Perry Brown, Glenna Calhoun Wood. **1936:** Leroy Rowley. **1937:** Ida Woomer Bresler, Benedict Oddi. **1939:** Charles Anderson, Jenny Ferrarotti Mniszak, Frances Coates Weaver.



Keith Boyer

ALUMNI:

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1940: Marjorie Lemon Deemer, Geraldine Gilmore Woods. **1942:** Florence Gill. **1943:** Rhoda Hunter Wynn. **1944:** Dorothy Hartman Redfoot, Margaret Grazier Schroth. **1947:** Marilyn Fees Caldwell. **1948:** Jean McHail Cochran, Teney Panasci Mcelyea, Robert Reynolds, Jane Moder Stout. **1949:** Linnie Gregg, Melio Patrick, John Strandberg.

1950: Melvin Ehrin, Ruth Faith, W.A. Torrance. **1951:** Louis Czambel, Rachel Kauffman Hargreaves, Kathleen Amershek McLoone, Marilyn Chelgren Woodhall. **1952:** Patricia McCloskey Donnelly, Andrew Singel. **1954:** Marjory Nordsiek-Stoehr. **1956:** Paul Henderson, Robert McGinnis. **1958:** Max Anderson, Glenn Freshcorn, Lucian Levrio. **1959:** Norma Blaske Hanson, Harold Young.

1960: Rose Marshall France. **1962:** Vincent Burke, Truman Deyo (M). **1963:** Ronald

Vaughn. **1964:** Lee Frank. **1965:** Judith Smeal. **1967:** Janice Groter Davis. **1968:** Carolyn Ostanoski Flinn. **1969:** Linda Darcangelis Walker.

1970: Jean Gates Karp, Donald McBride (M). **1971:** Cheryl Dillinger Gawne, Mary Ann Shubuck Kovaklik, Christine Spencer. **1972:** John Miller. **1975:** Joanne Szymanski. **1976:** Marlene Seni Kelly (M). **1977:** Paul Gyurina (M). **1978:** Emily Artley Barto, Eric Duchow, Kathy Barnett Fetzer, Cheryl Hoover. **1979:** Samuel Massafra, Joan Hartle Wolinsky.

1980: Lynn Hemminger Fiscus (M), Gregory Kiltroy, Marianne Nowicki Stewart. **1984:** Carol Pekar Keddie. **1985:** Verner Snyder (AA). **1988:** Kenneth Bailey.

1991: Susan Miller Vaughan. **1996:** Cynthia Houdeshell Morris. **1997:** Kelly Duell.

Other Deaths

Emily DeCicco, an education professor at IUP from 1974 until her retirement in 1994, died January 27, 2007.

John Deemer, a retired custodian at IUP, died February 4, 2007.

Irving Godt, a professor of music history at IUP from 1970 to 2003, died December 5, 2006.

Brian Kimberly, a graduate student in Educational and School Psychology, was killed in an automobile accident January 19, 2007.

James Myers, faculty member in the Mathematics Department from 1989 until his death, died February 15, 2007.

Anja Olin-Fahle, who taught anthropology at IUP from 1969 to 1998, died November 23, 2006.

AWARDS



● **A MAN WITH 125,000**
EMPLOYEES: Richard Macedonia '66 received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree and delivered remarks at Commencement ceremonies in December. He is president and chief executive officer of Sodexo, Inc.

Keith Boyer

President's Medal of Distinction

To Ruth Riesenman '64, in recognition of her devoted decades of service to IUP and its students and her continuing service not only to the university but to the Indiana community

Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival 2007 National Finalist in Sound Design

Achieved by David Hunter, a December graduate of Robert E. Cook Honors College, in recognition of his work on IUP's production of *Philoctetes*

Fulbright Senior Specialist Scholarship Award

To IUP Marketing Department faculty member Rajendar Garg, who will travel to Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu, China. The award marks the second Fulbright recognition for Garg and the fifty-eighth for IUP faculty members since 1959.

2007 Individual Creative Artists Fellowships

Presented by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts to faculty members Anthony Farrington, English, and Fuyuko Matsubara, Art

Admissions Marketing Award

Award of Merit in the External Publications category for the Fall, 2006, issue presented by Admissions Marketing Report to *IUP Magazine*

Accolades

IUP was pegged at number 40 in Kiplinger's *Personal Finance* magazine's list of "100 Best Values in Public Colleges" in the February, 2007, issue; Herb Denenberg also called attention to the accolade in his Philadelphia *Bulletin* column in January.



The Rewards of Giving

Ruth Riesenman has generously given of her time, talents, and treasures to assist students throughout her distinguished 42-year career in education.

Graduating from IUP in 1964, Ruth worked in the public school system in Ohio and at Kent State University and Washington & Jefferson College before returning to her alma mater in 1979 for a position in the Office of Career Services, where she counseled students preparing for their futures. Ruth retired from IUP in 2006 after serving the last 14 years as executive assistant to the president.

Prior to retirement, Ruth established an endowed scholarship—the Riesenman-McKahan Families Scholarship—in honor of her parents and in memory of her husband, Bill, who passed away in 2002. Ruth has also included the Foundation for IUP in her estate plans with a bequest to add to the scholarship endowment.

"IUP has been wonderful for me and to me, so it's a pleasure to give something back," says Ruth, explaining her motivation for giving. "The university helped make me what I am and gave me such an incredible life."

Nowadays, Ruth enjoys an active retirement filled with travels, gardening, and many friends. She recently was appointed as a member of the Board of Directors for the Foundation for IUP. "I encourage others to make plans to give back to those institutions that are important in our lives," Ruth counsels.

You, too, can support students and the many exceptional programs at IUP through a gift in your estate plans or other deferred gift opportunities. Contact Shari Trinkley by calling 724-357-0164, by e-mail at trinks@iup.edu, or by mail at John Sutton Hall, Room 330, 1011 South Drive, IUP, Indiana, PA 15705.

Emergency Housing

BY REGAN HOUSER

Left to right at the base of the firehouse's brass pole:
Raza Armaghan, Justin Little,
and Mike Sheehan.



Keith Boyer

A typical day for Nursing major Reza Armaghan includes attending class, doing homework, cooking meals, doing household chores, and, on really busy days, responding to as many as six emergency calls from the public.

Armaghan, a senior Nursing major from Wilkes-Barre, lives at the Indiana Fire Association's new station, along with junior Safety Science majors Michael Sheehan and Scott Springer from Ebensburg and Justin Little, a Safety Sciences graduate student from Indiana. Armaghan, Sheehan, Springer, and Little do chores around the station and set up furniture when the station is rented for social engagements—and are on call for eight hours a day, usually at night.

All four students, certified firefighters for their home companies, don bunker gear with Indiana's own volunteer companies for fire

and rescue situations.

According to Paul Koons, the fire association's administrator, the relationship was born of necessity when the association built a station. The original station is situated next to the Indiana Borough office and police station, which is owned by the borough and has access to borough amenities. The new station, located along Indian Springs Road near Indiana Mall, is supported by but not owned by White Township.

The association decided a second station was a must when the railroad tracks that cross Indiana Borough were put back into service for long, coal-carrying trains, which threatened volunteer response time. The White Township Fire Station, designed by local architect Tom Harley, features a fireman's pole, a tower for hanging hoses (the tower roof doubles as a practice area for hose handling), and a museum that houses one of the association's original trucks, a 1923 American LaFrance.

Koons and other fire association officials turned to Alpha Fire Company in State College for an example of how partnerships could work between fire companies and students.

"When we built this second station, we recognized we would have maintenance issues and would need twenty-four-hour coverage. The students receive free room and board in exchange for services rendered.

"You scratch our back, and we'll scratch yours," Koons said. "It's working out great."

Armaghan, who aspires to work in an emergency room setting as a trauma nurse, said, "In our crew, I'm the medical guy. We do a lot of rescue work, and I assess all the patients. This really complements what I want to do. It's a great experience. I'd recommend it to anyone who wants to do this kind of work." ☀

Mentors



- In January, the Alcoa Foundation awarded \$100,000 to the Foundation for IUP to support a two-day, national forum on fatality prevention in the workplace, to be hosted by the IUP Safety Sciences Department.

- Mary Ann Rafoth, a faculty member and administrator at IUP for two decades, has been appointed dean of the College of Education and Educational Technology, effective July 1.

- In celebration of his sixtieth birthday, IUP Academic Technology Services administrator Rick McFerron walked thirty miles to Punxsutawney for Groundhog Day from his home in

Indiana and thirty miles back the next day. The trek, in some of the winter's coldest weather, captured the imagination of reporters from all over the world and raised thousands of dollars for the Susan G. Komen fund for breast cancer education and research.

- IUP Provost Cheryl Samuels was appointed in January to the Task Force on Core Educational Outcomes that will develop recommendations for a Voluntary System of Accountability, a partnership project of the Association of State Colleges and Universities and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. Former IUP President John Welty, now president of

California State University Fresno, was appointed to the Presidential Advisory Committee for the project.

- The IUP Academy of Culinary Arts' Baking and Pastry Arts program has received accreditation from the American Culinary Federation. This is the program's third year and the first in which it was eligible for accreditation.

- IUP History Department faculty member Caleb Finegan sent some seventy Alternative Spring Break students to three different locations this year: Eastern Tennessee, where one group worked on a trail-building effort coordinated by the Cumberland Trail Conference; Texas, where a second segment assisted an agency that rehabilitates and cares for abused or abandoned domestic pets and factory farm animals; and Buras, Louisiana, where a third group helped reconstruct the city, which

sits at the mouth of the Mississippi delta and was first to be hit by Hurricane Katrina. Each year, activist IUP students forgo more usual spring break pleasures in favor of hard work as volunteers.

- IUP Nursing students will have an opportunity to begin their careers free of student loan debt and with employment and internship experience, thanks to an agreement signed in January between IUP and Indiana Regional Medical Center. Full information is available at www.iup.edu/news.

- IUP's Spanish Education Program was one of only twelve foreign language teacher preparation programs granted "national recognition" by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages for its exemplary teacher preparation program.

Little wonder George Hood, Jr., made international headlines in January: A special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration beset by hallucinations. Bet that made him popular with his colleagues.

Actually, it did.

BY BOB FULTON



George Hood, Jr., left, with his father, the mayor of Indiana, Pa.

Courtesy of George Hood, Jr.

WORLD BEATER

Hood, who earned a Government and Public Service degree from IUP in 1980, raised more than \$30,000 for Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), which assists families of slain law enforcement officers, while setting a world record for spinning—riding a stationary bicycle—at Five Seasons Sports Club in suburban Chicago. He endured sleep deprivation—hence the hallucinations—and various physical ailments to achieve his goal of landing in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

A career federal agent who resides in Aurora, Ill., Hood rode for eighty-five consecutive hours while sleeping a grand total of forty minutes, and covered 1,082.3 miles, the equivalent of a trip from IUP to Boston and back.

"When I finally got off the bike," he said, "I was totally depleted. There was nothing left."

Hood attracted global attention during his four days of peddling, with newspapers as distant as Taiwan's *Taipei Times* and the *Daily*

Times of Lahore, Pakistan, chronicling his monumental feat. *USA Today*, *Sports Illustrated*, the *New York Times*, CNN, ESPN—even Seth Meyers in the "Weekend Update" segment of *Saturday Night Live*—also devoted coverage to his marathon ride.

Hood's entrance into the realm of celebrity can be traced to his entrance into a Chicago bookstore nine months before.

"I had taken up spinning, and I was quite proficient at it," he explained. "I'm inquisitive by nature, and I was curious as to what the spin record was. I was out with a buddy of mine one day over the noon hour, and we went into a bookstore. I looked in the *Guinness* book, and they happened to have the stationary bicycle record in there."

Brian Overkaer of Denmark held the existing mark: eighty-two hours. Hood was convinced he could eclipse Overkaer's standard, provided he trained properly. Hood soon began logging more time on his bike and less

time in his bed.

"I had to train at night if I was going to make this happen," he said. "The body has to get used to being up at night exercising. September through December, I only averaged about three to four hours of sleep a day. I'd come home from work, crawl into bed for a few hours, get up and go to the gym. I'd spin all night, five, six, seven hours at a time. Then I'd go back to work."

Hood launched his record-breaking attempt before dawn on Wednesday, January 10. *Guinness* guidelines stipulated that he ride at least twelve miles every hour and allowed for periodic five-minute breaks, time that could be banked and used later. He dozed only briefly on a blanket stretched out on the floor near his bike.

"You never want to sleep for more than twelve, fifteen minutes max, because your body goes into a deeper sleep and it's very difficult to come out of it," said Hood, who eschewed solid food in favor of a liquid protein/multi-vitamin complex carbohydrate



continued on page 24 ▶

The Indiana University of Pennsylvania
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Congratulations

our alumni serving in
state senates or state houses of
representatives across the country...



Sen. Jay Costa, Jr. '79
43rd District, Pa.



Rep. Nick Kotik '72
45th District, Pa.



Rep. Thomas Tangretti '68
57th District, Pa.



Rep. Jim Wansacz '94
114th District, Pa.



Rep. Thomas Creighton M'70
37th District, Pa.



Rep. Jeff Pyle '91
60th District, Pa.



Rep. Dave Reed '00
62nd District, Pa.



Rep. Curt Schroder '83
155th District, Pa.



Rep. William Kortz '77
38th District, Pa.



Sen. Don White ex'77
41st District, Pa.



Rep. Stan Saylor ex'75
94th District, Pa.



Rep. Marc Gergely ex'92
35th District, Pa.



Sen. P.J. Hogan '90
39th District, Md.



Rep. Shelley Vana '73
85th District, Fla.



.And sends best wishes to
Rep. Brett Feese '76, 84th
District, Pa., on his years of
dedicated service and
retirement from the legislature.

If you know of other IUP alumni serving in state house or senate positions across the country,
please contact Wally Stapleton, legislative liaison, at walter.stapleton@iup.edu.

“The memory of that moment will last a lifetime.”

supplement. “That happened to me on Saturday morning, very, very early. When I got back on the bike I had a hell of a time waking up. I kept pouring water on my face.”

Supporters chatted with Hood to keep him engaged when he threatened to nod off. The core cheering section included his father, the mayor of Indiana Borough; his three teenage sons, Christopher, Brandon, and Andrew; his brother, Frank; his sister, Sue McKissick, a 1982 IUP grad; his niece, Nichole Barry; his trainer, Brian Clark; and Mickey Straub, a 1979 IUP alumnus with whom he’s publishing *The Mile Book*, a training journal in which athletes can document their performance—and progress—on a daily basis. Chicago White Sox relief pitcher Bobby Jenks regularly visited Hood, too. Jenks even offered to loan him his 2005 World Series championship ring to wear as a good luck charm.

Hood needed a little luck. He had to overcome “saddle sores,” aching muscles, and a strained knee tendon, not to mention the tricks his mind played on him as the lack of sleep took its toll.

“The whole hallucinatory experience started to take effect Friday about midnight,” Hood said. “The dynamics of the room were changing on me. People seemed to be moving around, and I’d swear the bike was in a different place each time I came back after a break. Now I look at the tapes and I realize that nothing moved.”

Hood forged on through it all, tireless as the Energizer bunny. As he neared Overkaer’s record Saturday night, the crowd at Five Seasons, like a New Year’s Eve throng in Times Square, began counting down the seconds.

“When we were about a minute away, you could just see that room starting to swell,” Hood said. “There must have been three hundred people in there. The place was packed. The media showed up, the lights came on, the cameras came on. The memory of that moment will last a lifetime.”

He raised a fist in triumph when the record fell, and the crowd erupted in thunderous cheers. Hood rode on for another three hours before finally climbing off the bike at 11:58 p.m. For the second time in his life he held a world record. Hood jumped rope continu-

ously for thirteen hours, twelve minutes, and eleven seconds back in 1986, but his time was surpassed before the *Guinness* spring publication deadline, so his name never made it into print. To finally gain a place in the world’s foremost repository of records is doubly significant for Hood, given that the feat also benefited families of officers killed in the line of duty. He was blown away by the fact that in excess of \$30,000 was raised for COPS, far beyond his original goal of \$20,000.

“To raise that kind of money is pretty rewarding,” said Hood, who is next eyeing a *Guinness* record for most times on an elliptical machine. “I mean, the world record’s really nice. But knowing this event helped so many people is what makes it so special. To think about it gives me goose bumps.”

No wonder fellow law enforcement officers applauded DEA agent George Hood as he continued pedaling through four sunrises and four sunsets, through the pain, through the tricks his mind was playing on him. They didn’t even mind when he started hallucinating. ↗

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Your gift ensures that today’s promising IUP students have the opportunity to receive instruction, conduct undergraduate research opportunities, and pursue internships.

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The Foundation for IUP is a 501(c)3 organization; gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible as per IRS regulations.

Questions? Call the Annual Giving Office at 724-357-5555.

The official registration and financial information of the Foundation for Indiana University of Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. For calls that originate outside of Pennsylvania, the telephone number is 1-717-783-1720. Registration does not imply endorsement.

8408/NCSPF/SUBS/AF07

The Ultimate Thrill Ride

Brian Spickler has found that careening down a mountainside in a bobsled at ninety mph provides the ultimate adrenalin rush.

By Bob Fulton

The ride was never more thrilling than when the IUP track and field coach served as the brakeman on the four-man team that captured top honors in January at the United States Bobsled National Championships in Lake Placid, N.Y. Driver Grayson Fertig and his crew completed two runs down the Mount Van Hoevenberg course in 1:58.01, edging out Stephan Bosch's top-seeded team by twelve-hundredths of a second.

"We knew if things came together we'd definitely have a shot at contending," Spickler said. "We were within three-hundredths after the first run. That's when we knew, hey, we have a shot at winning this."

“People try to explain what it’s going to feel like and what exactly’s going to take place, but there’s nothing that can prepare you for your first run.”



Then we put down a great second run. It was a total surprise that we won. I mean, the look on the faces of the favored team—you could tell they weren’t very happy.”

As a reward for their victory, Spickler, Fertig, and pushers Will Person and Theron Johnson had their names engraved on the Billy Fiske Memorial Trophy, which commemorates the sixteen-year-old phenom who drove the U.S. team to a gold medal in the 1928 Olympics and successfully repeated his title at the 1932 Lake Placid Games.

Compared to Fiske, Spickler was a veritable graybeard when he took up the sport. A friend e-mailed him in the summer of 2002 with news that the national bobsled federation was holding open tryouts in Portland, Maine, and suggested he give it a try. On a whim, Spickler drove north. He showed enough promise in Portland that federation officials invited Spickler—who had never before seen a bobsled up close—to the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid.

Soon he was hurtling down the treacherous Mount Van Hoevenberg layout, a molar-rattling experience that left him wanting more.

“People try to explain what it’s going to feel like and what exactly’s going to take place, but there’s nothing that can prepare you for your first run,” said Spickler, a 1998 IUP graduate who won two Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference decathlon titles and twice earned NCAA All-America honors in the demanding ten-event discipline. “The track at Lake Placid is considered one of the most difficult in the world, so having that be my first experience ever was just a total shocker. I guess the easiest way to explain it is, you’re on one of the fastest roller coasters you could ever imagine, but someone’s shaking the car the whole time and throwing you back and forth as hard as they can. It’s pretty violent.”

The crewmen endeavor to remain motionless during their descent so the driver can steer the sled as smoothly as possible through a series of banked turns and avoid banging against the walls in the straightaways. This after a fifty-meter start when team members sprint while pushing the sled—hence the value of a track background—before loading in sequence. Sleds barrel down serpentine runs at speeds that would prompt most mortals to lose bladder control.

“People ask me what it feels like to go that fast,” Spickler said. “I tell them if you’re in your car and you’re ever doing eighty mph, or even sixty, just open your door and look at the ground and see how fast it’s actually going by. That gives you an idea of what it feels like going that fast that close to the ground. We’re sitting about an inch and a half above a sheet of ice. So when you’re doing eighty to ninety mph, with a five-G force going through the turns, it’s kind of

a gut-wrenching experience.”

Of course, a sport that quickens the pulse rate until it approximates the rhythm of a jackhammer suits Spickler, a self-professed adrenalin junkie who sky dives, bungee jumps, and rides mountain bikes. He was hooked almost from the start.

Spickler debuted on the World Cup circuit during the winter of 2002-03—he has competed in Lake Placid; Park City, Utah; Calgary, Alberta; Altenberg, Germany; LePlagne, France; Cortina d’Ampezzo, Italy; and Igls, Austria—before stepping away from the sport after his rookie season because of his responsibilities at IUP.

“I’d just been appointed head men’s track coach and I was teaching health and phys. ed. classes,” Spickler said. “I was like, wow, I don’t want to pass up this opportunity, but I have a job that I just started. So it was a lot of logistics in getting leave time and getting approval and all those things. It just got to be too difficult.”

Spickler sat out two years before returning to the World Cup circuit in the fall of 2005. He posted his first two victories this past winter: Spickler and Fertig won the two-man America’s Cup championship, based on results at the three North American tracks, before capturing the U.S. four-man title at Lake Placid. Fertig and Co. stood in third place before a flawless second run catapulted them into the lead. Only two teams—the ones with the fastest first-heat times—were left to come down the mountain.

“We were just sitting at the bottom, basically watching the TV screen and the time clock,” said Spickler, who placed fifth with Fertig in the two-man event. “As soon as that last sled came down and we knew we’d won, we started jumping around and screaming and high-fiving everybody.”

Unfortunately, that was the final victory of his abbreviated 2006-07 season. Spickler passed up the final two months of the World Cup schedule so he wouldn’t miss the bulk of IUP’s indoor track season. He plans to devote more time to bobsledding as the 2010 Olympic Games, to be staged in British Columbia, draw closer.

The irony isn’t lost on Spickler that his hopes of making the Olympics, once predicated on performance in an ancient sport, now hinge on success in one where competitors wear state-of-the-art Kevlar vests and ride in high-tech sleds.

“A lot of bobsledders have gone the same route,” Spickler said. “They had expectations in track and field, but they finally realized it wasn’t ever gonna pan out. But you still have that Olympic dream, so you kind of look elsewhere for another way to get there.”

Brian Spickler just might have found it—along with the ultimate adrenalin rush. ☀



BY BOB FULTON • PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH BOYER

In a matter of days, Jason Capizzi will try to squeeze his six-foot-nine, 320-pound frame into an NFL team's uniform.

The former IUP offensive tackle hopes he's a perfect fit. Not just for the jersey—for professional football.

Capizzi will almost certainly wind up with one of the thirty-two NFL teams whose scouts have frequented the IUP football office in recent months, scrutinizing film of a lineman *D2Football.com* labeled one of ten "Pro Hopefuls" in Division II. The two-day draft will commence April 28.

"There are no doubts in my mind that he'll get an opportunity," IUP coach Lou Tepper said. "Jason will definitely be in somebody's camp, whether he's drafted or he signs as a free agent. He will get a very serious look."

With good reason. Capizzi routinely neutralized defenders during his three-year IUP career, allowing only one sack and opening holes so gaping—think Moses parting the Red Sea—that tailback Chris Morgan was able to rush for 3,817 yards, the second-best total in school history. Capizzi earned first-team Daktronics and American Football Coaches Association All-America honors last fall, and was a second-team Associated Press Little All-America selection.

The NFL prospect tag was applied to Capizzi almost from the moment he arrived at IUP after transferring from the University of Pittsburgh. Truth is, the Pine-Richland High School graduate was still very much a work in progress back then. Capizzi red-shirted his first season at Pitt and played sparingly the following year, so he was more greenhorn than blue-chipper. But through his single-minded dedication to improve

continued on page 29 ➤

FUTURE ON THE LINE

Name Droppers

By Bob Fulton

And here, Lou Gehrig thought he was the luckiest man on the face of the earth. Gehrig might have reconsidered had he only met **Bob Ligashesky '85**. One day after Ligashesky lost his job with the St. Louis Rams, another NFL team—his hometown team, the Pittsburgh Steelers—hired him as special teams coach. "Am I fortunate? Absolutely," said Ligashesky, who earned three letters as an IUP strong safety. "It's almost like a dream come true to be part of such a storied franchise. The Steelers are one of the teams in the league that sets the bar, sets the standard, if you will." Ligashesky launched his NFL career with Jacksonville in 2004 and worked two seasons for the Rams before head coach Scott Linehan cut him loose on January 25. New Steelers coach Mike Tomlin plucked Ligashesky from the unemployment line scarcely twenty-four hours later. "Guys change jobs all the time—that's the nature of the profession," said Ligashesky, shrugging off his dismissal. "Just because you're fired doesn't mean you're not a good coach." Linehan would certainly agree. He handed Ligashesky a compliment along with his pink slip, calling him "a good coach with a bright future." Ligashesky's future now involves games at Heinz Field, only three miles from his boy-



Bob Ligashesky

Mike Fabro/Pittsburgh Steelers

hood home in McKees Rocks, coaching with the team he grew up rooting for. And Lou Gehrig thought he was lucky.

Junior defender **Liz Martini** and sophomore midfielder **Sylvia Guerrieri** earned first-team National Field Hockey Coaches Association All-America honors, and freshman forward **Marlous Bijleveld** was named to the second team after leading IUP to a 15-6 record and a berth in the NCAA Division II Final Four. Martini paced the Crimson Hawks in goals (15), Guerrieri tied for team honors in assists (10), and Bijleveld led IUP in scoring (36 points).

Tom Modrak '65 and **Dave Kling '69** were inducted into the Western Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, joining such illustrious figures as Roberto Clemente, Arnold Palmer, Honus Wagner, and long-time Steelers owner

Art Rooney, a 1921 graduate of Indiana Normal School, the forerunner of IUP. Modrak, the assistant general manager of the Buffalo Bills, has worked in the NFL since 1978, when Rooney hired him as a Steelers scout. Kling posted a 53-4-2 record as an IUP wrestler, earned All-America honors in 1968, and compiled a 381-152-2 record as the wrestling coach at Keystone Oaks High School in suburban Pittsburgh.

Four IUP football players earned Daktronics Northeast Region all-star honors for their contributions to the Crimson Hawks' 8-2 season, which culminated in a Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Western Division championship. Senior offensive tackle **Jason Capizzi** (profiled elsewhere in this issue) and freshman kicker **Nick Wallace** made the first team, while senior tailback **Chris Morgan** and sophomore linebacker **Rob Plowman** were second-team selections.

Pawel Glowiaik, a sophomore from Poland, qualified to compete in the 100 backstroke at the prestigious U.S. Open swimming meet in December and finished in 1:02.2, good for sixty-first place against a star-studded field. Glowiaik was thrilled just to join some of the biggest names in the sport at the Purdue University pool. "In terms of importance, it's the biggest meet in the world mid-

season," IUP coach Chris Villa explained. "Former Olympians and Olympic hopefuls from all over the world gather to compete. We're a small fish, but it was good to be there with them."

Guard **Marc Williams '06** spent part of the 2006-07 season with the Pittsburgh Xplosion of the Continental Basketball Association, averaging 8.6 points and 2.8 assists per game. Former IUP teammate

Lawrence Baker '06, also a guard, signed with the Xplosion just before *IUP Magazine* went to press.

Senior **Nicole Blaesser** and junior **Anthony Cellitti** were selected as fall season recipients of the PSAC Top Ten award, which recognizes academic and athletic excellence. Blaesser, who earned All-America honors for her seventh-place finish at the NCAA Division II cross country meet in November, has a cumulative grade-point average of 3.80 through seven semesters as a health and physical education major. Cellitti, who led the IUP football team in receptions (27)—the last a dramatic, final-minute touchdown grab to upset California in the season finale—has maintained a 4.0 GPA through five semesters as a health and phys. ed. major.

Freshman forward **Sarah Romasco** earned first-team National Soccer Coaches Asso-

ciation All-Northeast Region honors, and **Adel Heder** was named Coach of the Year after IUP won the PSAC West title, recorded the program's first NCAA tournament victory, and finished 15-7. Romasco was also selected to the NCAA Division II All-Northeast Region first team along with junior midfielder **Brittany Pikur**, while senior midfielder **Erin Falce**, senior forward **Crystal Heder**, and junior defender **Janel Paffie** were accorded second-team honors. Pikur and Falce also landed third-team berths on the *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-District II squad.

Rick Trickett M'75, who began his football coaching career as an IUP grad assistant in 1974,

has joined Bobby Bowden's staff at Florida State in the role of offensive line coach. Previous to taking the FSU job, Trickett served in the same capacity with another top-flight program: West Virginia. Back when Bowden coached at WVU, his assistants included future IUP head coaches **Chuck Klausing** and **Frank Cignetti '60, M'65**.

Brothers **Mont Mattocks '70** and **Marty Mattocks '75** were inducted into the Mercer Area School District Athletic Hall of Fame together in recognition of their achievements in basketball and cross country. Both started at point guard for celebrated IUP teams: Mont played for the 1968-69 squad that posted a 22-2 record and led

the nation in average margin of victory (24.1), while Marty played for the 1973-74 PSAC and NAIA District 18 champions, who advanced to the quarterfinals of the NAIA tournament in Kansas City, Mo., after pulling off two stunning upsets.

Kristen Jones Skugan M'06, a former Slippery Rock long jumper and triple jumper who served as a volunteer assistant track and field coach last year at IUP, has followed the lead of head coach **Brian Spickler '98, M'02** (profiled elsewhere in this issue) by taking up bobsledding. "I never really had any kind of training in the sport," she said, "but I've always been pretty athletic and I like to try different things. I really liked

the challenge of it." Skugan made the U.S. team as a brakeman, but she and driver Jamia Jackson crashed during a practice run for the Junior World Championships in Altenberg, Germany, and Jackson was injured, bringing their season to a premature close.

Rickabaugh Graphics of Gahanna, Ohio, the firm creating graphics to represent IUP's new nickname and mascot, Crimson Hawks, was expected to make a presentation at the March meeting of the IUP Council of Trustees. Readers can visit www.iup.edu/mascot to see the result of Rickabaugh's work, which will also be shown in the Summer issue of *IUP Magazine*. 

FUTURE ON THE LINE

and the guidance of IUP offensive line coach **Mike Campolo**, Capizzi blossomed into one of the premier blockers in the land.

"He committed himself from Day One in the weight room, committed himself in the offseason conditioning program, and committed himself on the practice field," Campolo said. "He paid attention to detail in practice and in the film room. He did a great job developing himself over time here."

And yet, Capizzi confesses that he was initially reluctant to cast his lot with IUP. He feared joining a Division II program might compromise his dream of one day playing in the NFL.

"A good friend who played high school ball with me, Brandon Hunt, was playing here at the time," Capizzi recalled. "I talked to him when I was thinking about leaving Pitt. I said, 'Brandon, my main goal is to make the NFL. Can I do that at IUP?' He told me IUP had a tradition of putting people in the NFL."

Indeed, ten players have made the transition from Miller Stadium to NFL stadiums in the last twenty years. Frank Cignetti, who was then IUP's coach, enlightened Capizzi about the program's pro pipeline during the recruiting process.

"Coach Cignetti did an outstanding job of outlining everything for Jason," Campolo said. "He told him about all the IUP people working in the NFL as coaches, scouts, general managers, players. That opened his eyes. And after Jason's first year here, that's when Kris Griffin, Mike Jemison, and LeRon McCoy got into NFL camps. We had more people go to the NFL that year than Penn State."

Capizzi devoted himself to following in their footsteps. His efforts bore fruit during the 2006 season, when he attracted scouts the way Brad and Angelina attract paparazzi.

"I think Jason made tremendous strides between his junior and senior year," said Tepper, who coached against Capizzi while at Edin-

continued from page 27

boro in 2004 and 2005. "And that's not to my credit—it's to his desire to show people that he might have an NFL future, and to Mike Campolo, who worked with him. He was really a dominant player as a senior."

Capizzi is blessed with the kind of attributes that prompt talent evaluators to salivate like Pavlov's dogs: a lean body, quick feet, the agility of a gymnast, herculean strength, and superior intelligence. About the only attribute he doesn't possess is prescience: Capizzi hasn't the vaguest notion what will occur once the seven-round draft kicks off.

"People have said I'm going to be a late-round pick," he said. "I can see myself going anywhere between the fourth and seventh round. I don't think I'll go any higher than the fourth round, but no one can predict what's going to happen."

Representatives of four teams—Indianapolis, Cleveland, Atlanta, and New Orleans—have made three visits to campus, an indication of their overwhelming interest in Capizzi. But ask him where he'd like to begin his pro career and Capizzi expresses no preference. He only wants an opportunity.

"You can put me in Alaska, put me in Antarctica—I don't care what team I play for, as long as I'm on a team," Capizzi said. "As long as it's an NFL team playing on Sunday."

What he accomplished on Saturdays at IUP earned him that shot. Capizzi arrived as a diamond in the rough and worked diligently to become a polished gem.

"I'm proud of what Jason did at IUP," Campolo said. "He'll leave here as one of the best offensive linemen we've had. And I think that speaks volumes, because we've had a lot of great ones." Several of whom now play in the NFL—where Jason Capizzi soon hopes to find a perfect fit. 

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Sutton Hall, Room 316
1011 South Drive
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Courtesy of Governor's Office

In January, the IUP Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Kevin Eisensmith, performed in a Celebration of the Arts for the inauguration of Governor Ed Rendell and Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll. The event took place at the Whitaker Center of Science and the Arts in Harrisburg. Among numbers the ensemble performed was *Back Home Again in Indiana*.